THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Damodar Valley Corporation have requested Coal India Limited for supply of required quantity of coal for their proposed Maithan Right Bank Thermal Power Project, having capacity of 1000 MW (4 x 250 MW).

(c) The proposal of Damodar Valley Corporation in this regard has been received in the Ministry of Coal in February, 1997 which after due examination will be submitted to the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) for appropriate decision.

[English]

CBI cases Against Bank Officials

3315. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases for investigation by CBI against senior officers of the nationalised banks were referred to the RBI for advice during the period from January, 1991 to January, 1997;

(b) the number of cases which RBI opined in favour of investigation; and

(c) the number of cases in which CBI was permitted to investigate such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LIC Office at Siliguri

3316. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open LIC's Divisional Office at Siliguri, Haldia, Maldah, Agartala;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has informed that since its branch offices are complete activity centres and are functioning satisfactorily at all the places mentioned it has no proposal to open Divisional Offices at Siliguri, Haldia, Maldah and Agartala.

NABARD Loan to Kerala

3317. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'NABARD' has stopped Agriculture loan to Kerala co-operative Banks; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Government/State Co-operative Bank for revamping the co-operative credit structure on sound lines. The MoU, inter-alia, contains a covenant whereby the Chief Executive Officers of Co-operative institutions could be appointed/replaced only in consultation with NABARD. This has consequently been incorporated as one of the terms and conditions governing sanction/release of refinance by NABARD and it has been stipulated that non-compliance with this requirement will lead to stoppage of refinance.

In so far as Kerala is concerned, the State Government has passed orders for replacing the Chief Executives of both Kerala State Co-operative Bank and Kerala State Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank without prior consultation with NABARD. NABARD has, therefore, suspended the release of refinance to both the institutions, under all lines of credit, in terms of the relevant covenant governing sanction/release of refinance facility.

Lead Bank Scheme in Assam

3318. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Non-functioning of LBS a common phenomenon in Assam' appearing in Assam Tribune dated December 3, 1996;

(b) if so, the fact and the details of the issued raised therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Loan by NABARD

3319. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are monitoring utilisation of the loan given by NABARD loans for the purpose it was meant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request has been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh for fresh loans; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) extends refinance assistance to commercial